

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF FUNERAL DIRECTING AND EMBALMING**

April 25, 2019

These minutes have been
approved by the Board on
July 25, 2019

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Board of Funeral Directing and Embalming was called to order by Leo Seger, Chair, at 8:32 a.m., in the Nebraska State Office Building, Lower Level Conference Room A, Lincoln, Nebraska. Copies of the agenda were mailed to the Board Members and other interested parties in accordance with the Open Meetings Law. The following members answered roll call:

Members Present

Lawrence Battaglia	Vice-Chair
Steven Brunken	Member
Leo Seger	Chair

Member Absent

Arvid Wiest	Secretary
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Others Present

Kris Chiles	Program Manager, Licensure Unit
Nancy Herdman	Health Licensing Coordinator, Licensure Unit
Trevor Klaassen	Investigator
Ami Huff	Assistant Attorney General
1 public person	

A quorum was present and the meeting convened.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: Brunken moved, seconded by Battaglia, to adopt the agenda. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Battaglia, Brunken, Seger (3). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Wiest (1). Motion carried.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (1-24-19; 2-14-19)

MOTION: Battaglia moved, seconded by Brunken, to approve the minutes of 1-24-19. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Battaglia, Brunken, Seger (3). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Wiest (1). Abstain: None (0). Motion carried.

MOTION: Brunken moved, seconded by Seger, to approve the minutes of 2-14-19. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Brunken, Seger (2). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Wiest (1). Abstain: Battaglia (1). Motion carried.

4. INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS & OTHER CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION – CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Brunken moved, seconded by Battaglia, to enter into closed session at 8:34 a.m. to hear discussions of an investigative/confidential nature, and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of the individuals. Seger repeated the motion purpose. A roll call voice vote was taken. Voting aye: Battaglia, Brunken, Seger (3). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Wiest (1). Motion carried.

8:34 a.m. - 1 public person departed meeting

MOTION: Battaglia moved, seconded by Brunken, to return to open session at 8:49 a.m. A roll call voice vote was taken. Voting aye: Battaglia, Brunken, Seger (3). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Wiest (1). Motion carried.

8:49 a.m. - 1 public person entered meeting
Klaassen departed meeting

5. REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS – OPEN SESSION

There were no applications for review.

6. UPDATES AND REPORTS

a. 2019 Legislation Update

LB 112 – The bill waives initial licensing fees for young workers, low income and military. It was signed by the Governor on 3-21-19.

LB 559 – This is a bill regarding the Anatomical Board and the bill is on general file as of 3-25-19.

b. Nebraska Funeral Directing Association (NEFDA)

The Tri-State Conference will be in May 2019 in Overland Park, Kansas. Seger said the NEFDA was discussing:

- Death certificates and doctor's signature
- Fetal death certificates
- Final disposition remains to the family

Brunken stated he attended the International Crematory, Cremation and Funeral Association (ICCFA). They discussed alkaline hydrolysis which is a cremation process where the body is liquefied. The process is very expensive but is a green approach.

ICCFA will be added to future agendas.

c. International Conference of Funeral Service Examination Board, Inc. (ICFSEB)

- Draft Model Internship Program

Seger attended the conference in February on a scholarship. He felt it was very helpful to interact with other states and listen to how they address various issues including discussions on court cases and statutes. The next conference will be in Palm Coast, Florida, on February 19-20, 2020.

d. Disciplinary and Non-Disciplinary Action Report / Licensure and Examination Statistics

Chiles reported on the Disciplinary and Non-Disciplinary Action Report stating there were no new actions since those reported at the January meeting. At the January meeting the following were reported:

Braman Mortuary – Civil penalty and probation 1-18-19 to 1-18-20
Ryan Gray – Censure on 1-8-19

Examinations since January 1, 2019:

Jurisprudence – 2 pass, 1 fail
Vital Statistics – 3 pass
Jurisprudence (CE) – 6 pass
Arts – 2 pass, 1 fail
Science – 3 pass

Active license statistics:

Apprentice, full – 10
Apprentice, split 1 – 1
Apprentice, split 2 - 1
Branch Establishment – 99
Embalmer – 0
Funeral Director – 2
Funeral Director and Embalmer – 405
Funeral Establishment – 168

7. METHOD FOR ADMINISTRATING JURISPRUDENCE/VITAL STATISTICS EXAMINATIONS

This item was not addressed and will be placed on the next meeting agenda. Chiles stated she would have additional information on the computer testing process at that time.

9:21 a.m. - Public person departed meeting

8. COMPARE NEBRASKA INTERNSHIP FORMS WITH THE DRAFT MODEL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM OF THE ICFSEB

Brunken commented he felt funeral directors would not want to do all the paperwork suggested by the draft model. The members agreed they did not want to add anything to Nebraska's training based on the draft model as the content is already in Nebraska's materials.

The Board agreed to allow 4 hours of continuing education for supervising an apprentice as long as the apprenticeship was completed during the renewal period.

9:28 a.m. - Break; Huff departed meeting

9:58 a.m. - Meeting resumed

9. SCORE JURISPRUDENCE/VITAL STATISTICS EXAMINATIONS

MOTION: Brunken moved, seconded by Battaglia, to enter into closed session at 9:59 a.m. for discussions of a confidential nature and scoring the licensure examination. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Battaglia, Brunken, Seger (3). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Wiest (1). Motion carried.

MOTION: Battaglia moved, seconded by Brunken, to return to open session at 10:49 a.m. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Battaglia, Brunken, Seger (3). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Wiest (1). Motion carried.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the chair declared the meeting adjourned at 10:49 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Arvid Wiest, Secretary
Board of Funeral Directing and Embalming

Summarized by: Nancy Herdman, Health Licensing Coordinator